

II. CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] composition comprising ~~(essentially consisting of)~~ a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and a low glass transition temperature (Tg) latex resin.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a organometallic.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is a latex coating, ink or paint.

5. (Currently Amended) An amine free latex resin coalescent composition which ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent~~ comprises ~~(consists essentially of)~~ the combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and a low glass transition temperature (Tg) latex resin.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 5, wherein the coalescent further comprises ~~(consists essentially of)~~ an organometallic.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is ~~essentially~~ devoid of ~~conventional~~ surfactants having vapor pressures of 0.1 mm Hg or more at 25 °C.

10. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for latex resins comprising a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and low Tg latex resins.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~ comprise one or more hydroxyl functional groups.

12. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for acrylic latex resins comprising a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and low Tg latex resin(s), and optionally from 0.2 to about 2 weight % of one or more organometallic based surfactants, ~~and optionally from 0.1 to about 4% of essentially non-volatile reactive amine(s).~~

13. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for vinyl, and or vinyl copolymer latex resins comprising a combination of from 1 to 15% of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and from 1 to 15% of low Tg latex resin(s), and optionally from 0.1 to about 2 weight % of one or more metallic based surfactants, ~~and optionally from 0.1 to about 4% of essentially non-volatile reactive amine(s).~~

14. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for styrenic copolymer latex resins comprising a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and low Tg latex resin(s), and optionally from 0.1 to about 2 weight % of one or more metallic based surfactants, ~~and optionally from 0.1 to about 4% of essentially non-volatile reactive amine(s).~~

15. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for polyurethane latex resins comprising a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and low Tg latex resin(s), and optionally from 0.1 to about 2 weight % of one or more metallic based surfactants, ~~and optionally from 0.1 to about 4% of essentially non-volatile reactive amine(s).~~

16. (Currently Amended) An amine free [[A]] coalescent system for polyester latex resins comprising a combination of one or more essentially nonvolatile, unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~, and low Tg latex resin(s), and optionally from 0.1 to about 2 weight % of one or more metallic based surfactants, ~~and optionally from 0.1 to about 4% of essentially non-volatile reactive amine(s).~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method for coalescing a latex resin in the absence of an amine comprising combining a latex resin with one or more ~~an~~ essentially nonvolatile unsaturated esters, ethers or ether-esters ~~esters/ethers/ether-esters~~ and a low Tg latex resin.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising combining from 0.2 to about 2 weight % of one or more

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organometallic based surfactants.

19-30. (Canceled)